

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-4, and please add new claims 5 and 6.

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5. (*Newly Added*). A method of filtering blood comprising:

providing a filter comprising a housing, and a filter media in the housing including a main filter region comprising a layered non-fibrous membrane structure including a plurality of adjacent non-fibrous membrane layers, each adjacent non-fibrous membrane layer having a first skin surface and a second skin surface, an interior porous structure formed between the first and second skin surfaces by intersecting cells having a range of diameters, the cells adjacent to the first skin surface having diameters generally smaller than the diameters of the cells adjacent to the second skin surface, the first skin surface including an open area comprising pores formed by cells intersecting the first skin surface, the majority of the open area being defined by pores having a diameter of between about 12 μm and 28 μm , the layered non-fibrous membrane structure being arranged so that the first skin surface of one non-fibrous membrane layer adjoins the second skin surface of an adjacent non-fibrous membrane layer,

introducing blood from a source of blood into said filter,

passing said blood in succession through alternating regions of smaller and then larger intersecting cells, a fibrous prefilter region upstream of the main filter region sized to remove gross clots and aggregates present in blood, and a fibrous postfilter region downstream of the main filter region sized to provide a fluid manifold,

thereby removing leukocytes from said blood.

Claim 6. (*Newly Added*). A method of filtering blood comprising according to claim 5, said method further comprising passing said blood into a container following said step of removing leukocytes from said blood.